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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/459,290	12/17/1999	JOACHIM HAGMEIER	GE9-98-075	9966

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

MCARDEL, JOSEPH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	6

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/459,290	HAGMEIER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph McArdle	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____ .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____ .
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ . 6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Limsico (5793952). In regards to claims 1 and 6, Limsico discloses in column 5, lines 7-12, a password-changing program containing a graphical user interface (GUI), which allows users to input their login information and a new password. This meets a limitation of claim 1, which calls for users to input an identifying characteristic. Limsico further discloses in column 5, lines 55-58, a method of examining the user-inputted login information to make sure it is a valid login. Limsico also discloses in column 5, line 62, that if the user's login is verified, the entered password information will be sent on to be validated through the use of decision blocks. This meets the remaining limitations set forth by claims 1 and 6 which call for checking the user's identifying characteristics and if valid, transmitting them to an identifying characteristic processing device.

3. In regards to claims 2 and 7, Limsico discloses in column 5, lines 63-66, how an appropriate error message will be displayed if the user login is unable to be validated.

This discloser meets the exact limitations set forth under claim 2 which call for notifying a user if their identifying characteristic does not meet certain criteria.

4. In regards to claims 3 and 8, Limsico discloses in column 6, line 36, the use of a cancel button contained in the GUI, which allows a user to exit out of the password changing program. Limsico also discloses in column 5, lines 55-66, that the password-changing program will be halted if the user login is unable to be entered. Limsico then disclose that if the user login can be verified, the password-changing program will continue and the new entered password will be passed on to the password-checking device. These disclosers meet the limitations set forth by claims 3 and 8, which call for offering the user a means to terminate the input process and either terminating or continuing the process depending on whether the identification characteristics meet all of the prescribed criteria.

5. In regards to claims 4 and 9, Limsico discloses in column 6, lines 5-17, how passwords must be comprised of different components (for example, passwords must contain only 6 characters, must contain at least one numeric character), which are all checked and verified independently. This meets the exact limitations of claims 4 and 9, which call for performing independent checks of the components that comprise identifying characteristics.

6. In regards to claims 5 and 10, Limsico discloses in column 6, lines 5-9, how the password input process will be aborted if the entered password deviates from the prescribed criteria. This meets the exact limitations of claims 5 and 10, which call for aborting the input process if certain check criteria are deviated from

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph McArdle whose telephone number is (703) 305-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on Weekdays from 8:00 am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (703) 305-1830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Joseph McArdle
Examiner
Art Unit 2132

jmm
August 8, 2003

GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100